



# CJCC Newsletter

A quarterly publication to foster communications and promote coordination within the criminal justice system of Northwest Ohio

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2002

## Overcrowding Issues at CCNO

by Jim Dennis, Executive Director

Too many offenders, not enough money and not enough beds. Northwest Ohio, to include Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas and Williams counties and the City of Toledo, has looked at the corrections boogey man [overcrowding] and said "what can we do?" CCNO is host to over 25 sentencing courts (municipal, common pleas and juvenile). Some courts monitor their CCNO bed counts or billing reports daily while others do not.

However, the trend is that

judges are becoming more and more involved in monitoring their bed usage. Commissioners and City Councils are monitoring bed usage. As tax revenues have dipped the last two years, less funds are available for high end corrections, i.e., beds and cells and who lays in them. The key to managing overcrowding is involvement. I have seen more involvement each year by all the "criminal justice players". For me, this means more questions, more accountability, more efficiency and more players at the table. The table gets bigger, the questions more complex and the funding less and less, but the offenders keep coming. This

year CCNO will easily book 8,500 offenders and release approximately the same. CCNO's three electronic monitoring officers have assisted the courts in diverting 730 offenders in fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002). This simply means we all must do more with less. CCNO's average daily population has increased to 589 offenders through May 2002. The last year the population was that high was 1998

with an average daily population of 585. The years in-between were

notably lower, 2000 average daily population was 567 and in 2001 the average daily population was 561.

What caused the drop in population? Northwest Ohio was the recipient of grants that built two community based correctional facilities (approximately 150 plus beds), funded intensive supervision, two electronic monitoring programs, drug treatment beds and more. Those programs may have met their capacities. The funding for more diversions or expanding existing diversions from outside agencies is drying up. We will be at the fork in the road to discuss expanding CCNO or expanding diversion programs. I am

**"The key to managing overcrowding is involvement."**

## July 2002

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*Jim Dennis, Executive Director, CCNO*

confident that increased involvement will prevail and all involved will do what is best for Northwest Ohio. We have decisions to make, important ones that affect not only the safety of the communities, but funding for all government agencies in Northwest Ohio.

# Grants Update

by Ann Bowland, Grants Manager

The last three months have been busy ones at the CJCC. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) projects have submitted their applications for this year's funding. As part of the CJCC restructuring, the projects approved for funding received their awards directly from the Office of Criminal Justice Services. CJCC will continue



Ann Bowland, Grants Manager

## "Applications for Violence Against Women Proposals Available by September"

to receive and review the required financial and performance reports and OCJS will handle the paperwork involved in administering local projects. CJCC will also be available as always to answer questions and provide technical assistance.

The local response to the FY2002 Byrne Memorial Program solicitation was overwhelming to say the least. With 23 project proposals received, we may have set a local record. Later this fall OCJS will also issue the awards to the projects approved for funding. These projects will start January 1, 2003.

Staff will be spending the next few weeks visiting projects and

conducting on-site grant monitoring. At the same time, both the Byrne and VAWA committees will be meeting to discuss local needs and priorities and developing plans for future funding directions.

Applications for FY2002 Violence Against Women proposals should be available by September. Watch the OCJS web site at [www.ocjs.state.oh.us](http://www.ocjs.state.oh.us) and click on "Funding Opportunities", then click on "Grant Information". Lucas County will have \$256,148.50 federal funds available. If you keep track of these things, that is an increase of 15% over local available funds in the last allocation.

# Integrated Justice and New Technology

by Pat Wright, NORIS Project Director

I was a guest of the State of Ohio at a recent Search Symposium on Integrated Justice. I sat through several presentations that continued to touch on the theme of how Home Land Security and Integrated Justice are important partners. Clearly, the requirement to quickly and correctly capture a person's identity and link that information to criminal histories, active warrants and a known terrorist list is apparent to all.

Two other recurring themes came up throughout the Symposium. First, that Integrated Justice is greater than the sum of its parts. Through integration, operational efficiencies develop and manual procedural errors are reduced or eliminated. Second, that Integrated Justice is a process and not a destination. Like quality assurance in manufacturing, you are never done. Something can always be improved by being made more clear,

accurate or timely.

The conference was filled with good information and if you are not familiar with the group that sponsored it or the issue of Integrated Justice. I encourage you visit the SEARCH web site at [www.search.org](http://www.search.org).

The site contains a wealth of material

on many topics including Integrated Justice.

To address personal identification locally, NORIS is in the design and business review phase of implementing an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The proposed system would link the fingerprint data from the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio, Lucas County Corrections Center and the police departments of Maumee, Oregon, Sylvania and Sylvania

Township. Latent print search stations would be added at CCNO, LCSO and TPD. Key to the new AFIS system is the technology that allows for a single finger scan to identify a person. Identification stations will be located at each of the jails and police

departments listed above and eventually plans would extend the service to each of

the four County Sheriff Offices served by CCNO. I'm sure each agency can identify one or more applications where individual identification is critical. Since the cost of the identification stations are relatively small, other locations can be added over time.

In future issues, I will continue to update you on various applications and new technology utilized by NORIS.

"...the theme of how Home Land Security and Integrated Justice are important partners."

# NORIS: Leading the Way through Innovation

The NORIS Electronic Subpoena System uses modern e-mail and programming technology to electronically send all Police Departments "subpoenas to appear" issued by the Lucas County Common Pleas Court. The system includes innovative features that make it more than just an e-mail notification and is the first of its kind in Ohio.

## ***Here's how this innovative process works...***at 5:00 a.m.

everyday, the Lucas County Common Pleas Court transmits to NORIS,

electronic copies of all subpoenas issued the previous day. The subpoenas are converted into an *interactive* electronic e-mail that is sent to supervisory staff at the Toledo Police Department. This means all persons designated to appear in court can be aware almost as soon as early

morning the day after the order has been issued. Upon receipt, the supervisor can choose to either print the subpoena or record a 'no service' action.

Printing the subpoena is done right at the supervisor's desk and once printed; the court is electronically notified that the subpoena has been served. The document is then delivered to the officer. If the subpoena cannot be served, the

**"The NORIS Electronic Subpoena System uses modern e-mail and programming technology to electronically send all Police Departments "subpoenas to appear" issued by the Lucas County Common Pleas Court. "**

supervisor, after recording a reason, electronically notifies the prosecutor's office who can then schedule accordingly.

In either case, this is done through NORIS E-Mail by following an easy series of choices to "click" within the notification.

After three days, if a subpoena is not opened a secondary request is automatically sent to the section commander requesting further action. All communication is performed through e-mail files with separate



*John Allen, Data Center Director*

accounts available for any individual department or section.

## ***Some of the many benefits...***

include timely delivery of orders, more efficient scheduling, paper reduction, elimination of lost paperwork, immediate response, effective

supervisory control, subpoena cancellations, immediate feedback to the Lucas County Prosecutor's office and reduced delivery costs.

There are plans to expand the service to other agencies within Lucas County. If you are interested in more information and would like to see a demonstration of this process, please call the NORIS Data Center at 419-244-5888. You may also find this article with a working demo by visiting the NORIS Intranet site at **[noris.intra.com](http://noris.intra.com)**.



*Pat Wright, NORIS Project Director*

## ***WERE YOU AWARE .....*** **NORIS has an InTRAnet site**

In May 2002 NORIS began hosting its own web site, however, unlike an Internet site, the NORIS site is not accessible outside of our network. As long as your workstation has access to a browser you can access our site at **[NORIS.INTRA.COM](http://NORIS.INTRA.COM)** *even if your terminal does not have access to the Internet!* You can also gain access directly from any of the NORIS applications by choosing NORIS Intranet from the help menu. Inside is a variety of information and links specifically tailored to users of the NORIS applications. Try it, you'll like it!





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## Executive Director's Desk

*We hope the articles contained in this first edition are informative and of interest to all of our criminal justice system practitioners and associate agencies. I want to emphasize that this is YOUR newsletter.*

*If you would like to contribute articles of interest or present issues that impact criminal justice efforts in Northwest Ohio, please contact Barbara Huy at the CJCC either by telephone (419) 244-5819 or email [barbara.huy@noris.org](mailto:barbara.huy@noris.org).*

*Nathanael Ford  
Executive Director*

